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Report on Delivering Development by Edward Carr

In this book, Edward Carr, an anthropologist, spends close to two centuries studying and visiting what he calls “Globalization Shoreline”. This location is in Ghana, Africa, precisely in the rural villages of Dominase and Ponkrum. The reason he gives this location this name is due to the fact that on this shoreline is where he see the effects that development has in the rural areas of Ghana. It’s like if the consequences of development seem to wash on the shore, go out and come back. Carr argues that globalization is a hotpot of economical, political, environmental impacts on these villagers that not only bring “some” positive outcomes, but also have some very negative influences on these villages. Normally, these effects of globalization have these results that greatly help the wealthy nations that seem to come in and change things. Carr argues that we have globalization going in a wrong direction and needs some help. He also argues that if these changes are made they can affect everyone in the world in a positive way.

Carr spends a lot of time in the beginning explaining how going into these villages is tougher than what we normally think. It costs almost half a person’s salary in one day to get to these villages otherwise they have to go walking. Keep in mind they make less than two dollars a day; it takes 50 cents to ride the bus. He explains that weather greatly influences the ability to move from town to town. He explains and shares what a typical day is for an individual living in these villages. Individuals include the men, women, and children’s daily life in order to get a clear picture of what is truly happening in globalization shoreline.

Given the current status of the land, we are then taken briefly back to Ghana between 1960’s-1980’s were we are given a scene of the impacts that the initial globalization has on the people. These are a time were the lumber business, mining for gold, and growing cocoa were booming commodities. Nations came in and took advantage of this while building a road for transportation. During this time we see that the cedi was fluctuating greatly compared to other currency. With it reaching its lowest values, we see that Ghana faces financial difficulties paying their debt. Soon after, all business falls because of deforestation and lack of transportation forcing individuals relying on work from theses booming commodities to return to farming labor- Shifting the income abilities of each household. Not only has that but within these changes there cultural impacted that change the economic landscape.

Coming back to the present we see that because of the timber business, deforestation has greatly impacted precipitation in the land. With little shade to help with the growing of cocoa, cocoa is no longer a big commodity and at the time the road made it possible to take gold to the docks but because the timber business got out, the owner took out the road, it no longer could function. The people of globalization shoreline take the hit economically, and environmentally, and politically.

Carr explains that we have to change the way globalization is dealt with. He suggest ideas like having famers on the shoreline grow the food at a larger scale that way they can make money and everyone benefits. Along with that he says that we can no longer rely all of the CO2 to villages like globalization shoreline. These people should not be responsible to take the weight of air waste we produce.

To end this book was very interesting and it opened my eyes to see the reality of situations happening in Africa. These people live in a world of constant unknown and rely heavily on the little they have. It makes me much more aware on how to approach globalization and realize that it takes steps and time.